

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121.

1. (currently amended) A flexible welding implement, comprising:
a torch head operable to couple electricity to a welding electrode disposed therein;
a cooling fluid supply tube operable to convey a cooling fluid to the torch head;
a cooling fluid return tube operable to convey the cooling fluid from the torch head;

[[and]]

a first biasing member comprising a helix of non-tubular material defining an axial flow path and operable to flexibly and fluidically couple the cooling fluid supply tube to the torch head such that the cooling fluid flows axially through the flow path of the first biasing member[[.]]; and

a second biasing member comprising a helix of non-tubular material defining an axial flow path and operable to flexibly couple the cooling fluid return tube to the torch head.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim [[2]]1, comprising:

a gas supply tube operable to convey a gas to the torch head; and
a third biasing member operable to flexibly couple the gas supply tube to the torch head.

4. (previously presented) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 1, comprising a second cooling fluid supply tube secured to the torch head, wherein the

cooling fluid supply tube is coupled to the second cooling fluid supply tube by the second biasing member.

5. (previously presented) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 4, comprising a flexible tube disposed over the first biasing member to define a fluid channel for the cooling liquid to flow from the cooling fluid supply tube to the second cooling fluid supply tube axially through the center of the first biasing member.

6. (previously presented) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 1, comprising a second cooling fluid return tube secured to the torch head, wherein the cooling fluid return tube is coupled to the second cooling fluid return tube by the second biasing member.

7. (previously presented) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 3, comprising a second gas supply tube secured to the torch head, wherein the gas supply tube is coupled to the second gas supply tube by the third biasing member.

8. (previously presented) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 6, comprising a second flexible tube disposed over the second biasing member and a third flexible tube disposed over the third biasing member.

9. (previously presented) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 3, comprising a handle disposed over the gas supply tube, the cooling fluid supply tube, and the cooling fluid return tube.

10. (currently amended) A flexible welding implement, comprising:
a torch coupleable to a handle, comprising:

a torch head operable to receive a cooling liquid; and

a plurality of coils disposed generally parallel with one another and with an axis of this handle within the torch to enable the torch head to be displaced relative to the handle, wherein the torch directs the cooling liquid to flow from a first tube axially through a first coil to the torch head.

11. (previously presented) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 10, comprising a flexible tube disposed over the first coil and a portion of the first tube to define a fluid channel for the cooling liquid to flow axially through the first coil.

12. (original) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 11, wherein the flexible tube comprises heat shrink tubing.

13. (previously presented) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 10, comprising a second coil disposed within the torch to enable the torch head to be displaced relative to the handle, wherein the torch is adapted to direct the cooling liquid to flow from the torch head axially through the second coil to a second tube.

14. (previously presented) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 13, comprising a third coil disposed within the torch to enable the torch head to be displaced relative to the handle, wherein the torch is adapted to direct a gas to flow from a third tube axially through the third coil to the torch head.

15. (previously presented) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 14, wherein the first tube is coupleable to a cooling liquid supply line, the second tube is coupleable to a cooling liquid return line, and the third tube is coupleable to a gas supply tube.

16. (original) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 15, comprising a tube support member, wherein the first tube, the second tube, and the third tube are disposed through the tube support member.

17. (original) The flexible welding implement as recited in claim 10, comprising the handle.

18. (currently amended) A welding implement, comprising:
a torch, comprising:
a torch head;
a tripod support system secured to the torch head to flexibly support the torch head, the tripod support system comprising:
a first leg comprising a first spring;
a second leg comprising a second spring; and
a third leg comprising a third spring[.];
the springs being disposed generally parallel to an axis of a handle supporting the torch head.

19. (original) The welding implement as recited in claim 18, wherein at least one of the legs is adapted to direct a fluid axially through the first spring.

20. (original) The welding implement as recited in claim 19, wherein the first leg is adapted to direct a gas axially through the first spring.

21. (previously presented) The welding implement as recited in claim 20, wherein the second leg is adapted to direct a cooling fluid to the torch head axially through the second spring, and the third leg is adapted to direct the cooling fluid from the torch head axially through the third spring.

22. (original) The welding implement as recited in claim 18, comprising a plurality of tubes and a tube support member, wherein each leg of the tripod support system comprises a tube disposed through the tube support member.

23. (original) The welding implement as recited in claim 22, wherein each of the springs comprises a coiled wire spring secured to an end of one of the plurality of tubes.

24. (original) The welding implement as recited in claim 22, comprising a handle coupleable to the torch, wherein the tripod support system enables the torch head to be flexibly positioned relative to the handle.

25. (previously presented) The welding implement as recited in claim 18, comprising a deformable support member extending through the tripod support system intermediate the first leg, the second leg, and the third leg, wherein the deformable member retains the welding implement in a user-selected configuration.

26. (original) The welding implement as recited in claim 25, wherein the deformable support member comprises a plurality of wires braided together.

27. (original) The welding implement as recited in claim 26, wherein the plurality of wires comprises a first coiled portion disposed over the first leg, a second coiled portion disposed over the second leg, and a third coiled portion disposed over the third leg.

28.-34. (canceled).

35. (currently amended) A welding implement, comprising:
a torch head;
a plurality of tubes operable to convey fluids; and
a plurality of coils member comprising a helix of non-tubular material defining an axial flow path and secured to the torch head to enable the torch head to be angled relative to the plurality of tubes and to route fluids axially through the coils~~[[,]] wherein each coil of the plurality of coils is displaced relative to the other coils in the plurality of coils.~~

36. (canceled).

37. (previously presented) The welding implement as recited in claim 35, wherein a first coil is adapted to direct a gas axially through the first coil.

38. (previously presented) The welding implement as recited in claim 37, wherein a second coil is adapted to direct a cooling fluid to the torch head axially through the second coil.

39. (previously presented) The welding implement as recited in claim 38, wherein a third coil is adapted to direct the cooling fluid from the torch head axially through the third coil.

40. (currently amended) The welding implement as recited in claim 35, comprising a tube support member, wherein the each of ~~[[the]]~~ plurality of tubes is disposed through the tube support member.

41. (previously presented) The welding implement as recited in claim 35, comprising a deformable support member extending through the plurality of coils and configured to retain a user-determined position of the torch head.

42. (previously presented) The welding implement as recited in claim 41,
wherein the deformable support member comprises a plurality of wires braided together.